Calcutta Metro Railways

1225. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on Calcutta metro railway is running behind schedule;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in its commissioning;

(c) whether any foreign collaboration has been sought for technical know-how to complete this project; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and the extent of foreign exchange involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) (i) An agreement has been entered into by the Railways with USSR for import of certain equipment and for consultancy in respect of certain areas of construction, payment being made in Rupees under Indo-Soviet Trade Agreement.

(ii) Following Metro Railway Contractors have also entered into foreign collaboration agreements for which foreign exchange has been arranged by the Railways;

1. M/S. RITES with experts from France and U.K. for consultancy in certain areas of operation and maintenance.

2. M/S Hindustan Construction Company with M/s Taisei of Japan and with M/S Nikex of Hungary for import of equipment and for consultancy for certain construction works.

2. M|S AFCONS with M|S Tebebau Gm bH of West Germany and with Roaio of Italy for import of certain equipment and for consultancy for construction of under-pass.

(iii) Equipment to about Rs. 10 crores.

Electrification of Jhansi-Itarsi railway line

1226. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of electrification of Jhansi Itarsi Railway line;

(b) whether it is likely to be completed as per schedule;

(c) if so, what's the likely date of its completion;

(d) what will be the resultent impact on the railway traffc on this route after commissioning thereof;

(e) whether this electrification is likely to be extended to Bhusawal-Nagpur Railway line; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The project involves electrification of about 381 KMs. of the section at an estimated cost of Rs. 107.82 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) By the end of the year 1988-89.

(d) Railways will be able to carry more traffic by running heavier trains at a faster speed.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The project involves electrification of about 393 Kms., at an estimated cost of Rs. 97.08 crores.

Youth Programme

1227. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of youth programmes extended to rural areas, other than National Service Scheme (N.S.S.)?